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### The Free Baptists and War.

It is easy to believe that a goodly proportion of Free Baptists hold peace principles in advance of those who regard war as a legitimate means of doing good. But the position of the body as a whole is considerably below, we fear, the position expressed by the General Conference of 1847. The late Prof. John Fullonton was chairman of the committee on peace at that time. Among the resolutions then adopted are the following:

"Resolved, That the custom of appealing to arms for the settlement of national difficulties is at open variance with the principles of peace, and consequently hostile to the spirit and precepts of Christianity.

Resolved, That all demonstrations of joy in honor of bloody victories achieved in Mexico, and the sympathy manifested by so many ministers and professed Christians in the designs and success of the present war, evince a deplorable want of Christian rectitude and piety."

What a pleasant thing it would have been had the thirtieth General Conference, recently held at Ocean Park, taken a ground as high as that expressed by these excellent resolutions! The position they declare is as true and noble for 1898 as it was for 1847.

Not a few of our denominational leaders have seen and taught upon occasion the radical and irremovable inconsistency of martial slaughter with the spirit and doctrines of Jesus and his apostles. Among these were Martin Cheney and George T. Day. Our great Civil Horror did much to paralyze peace principles and silence the voice of truth on this great theme. That awful struggle was made "necessary" only because Christians were not sufficiently Christlike. Oliver Johnson spoke truly when he said that if the larger religious denominations had held the position of the Freewill Baptists the bonds of the slave might have been broken without a war. The position of the Free Baptists on the question of the abolition of war ought to be maintained up to the level of the sentiment of 1847, despite the sophistries of war advocates and the obscuring smoke of the battlefields of two wars since that date.—*The Morning Star*.

A general treaty of arbitration has been made between Italy and the Republic of Argentina. It was signed on

the 23d of July by Mr. Canevaro, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Moreno, Minister Plenipotentiary of Argentina. This treaty is to continue in force for ten years unless it shall have been previously denounced. The tribunal which it sets up is to be composed of three judges, each of the contracting parties naming one, and the two so named choosing the third. In case they fail to agree on the third, he shall be named by the President of Switzerland or the King of Norway and Sweden. No one of the arbitrators can be a citizen of either of the contracting states, or have his abode within their territories. In its decisions the tribunal is to be governed by the principles of international law, except in cases where they give friendly advice. Decisions upon each point in controversy shall be by majority vote. The decisions shall be without appeal, and their execution is entrusted to the honor of the two na-

tions. In case a judgment has been based upon a false or erroneous document, or an error of fact, the tribunal may revise its decision. Well done Italy and Argentina! You have done a thing of the first importance, which many other nations will some day wish they had done as early.

Let our people all distinctly understand that imperialism necessitates an enormous standing army after the fashion of Germany, and an enormous navy with its heavy taxation on the labor of the people. Worst of all, it changes the whole character of our hitherto peace loving nation and it enthrones militarism as a permanent and dominant principle! Disguise it as they may, and blink as they may, that is the cataract towards which the rapids of this new imperialistic mania are rushing us!—*Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.*

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WHEN THE ROSES BLOOM AND ROBINS SING  
AND EVEN WHEN THE SLEIGH-BELLS RING,  
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